

ST. HELENS MIST

FOUNDED 1881

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M. E. Miller, Editor

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THE COUNTY OFFICIAL PAPER

EXEMPTION HITS LESS PROSPEROUS

In a letter to the Oregonian Hon. F. M. Gill, progressive candidate for governor showed in a concrete example how the adoption of the \$1500 exemption would make harder the lot of a man who has just taken over a run-down farm having few or no improvements thereon, while his already prosperous neighbor would have his taxes decreased.

The letter was similar to numerous other arguments against this measure, not one of which, except by appeals to prejudice, or impugnation of motives, has been answered.

A few days ago the Oregonian quoted the leading exponent of the amendment as saying that the landlord passes his taxes on to the renter and it pointed out that there would be no exemption under the proposed amendment on rented property—that in fact taxes thereon would be increased as a result of its adoption and thereby fall with greater force on the renter. What was the reply of the leading exponent of the amendment? Not a word was said by this friend of a measure proffered as a poor man's amendment to refute or destroy the conclusion that its adoption would burden the lot of those who form a large per cent of the poor—the renter.

The argument presented for publication in the state pamphlet is of similar order. It makes the bald assertion that the amendment would benefit the poor, but does not say how. It speaks sneeringly of "great land owners" and "special privilege". Moreover it contains false and misleading statements.

Several organizations, by committee or otherwise, have indorsed this measure. Among them are the electrical workers and the carpenters. These organizations owe to the members and to the public an explanation of their position. A statement would be in order as to their opinion of the total amount of property that would be exempted under the amendment; as to the increase in tax levy that would necessarily result; as to the identity of those who would suffer and those who would profit by the change in rate; as to how it would effect the renter, and effect such land-buyers who must postpone improvements until they have acquired larger equity than they now own. Above all they should tell why, in the opinion, some should contribute more to the public revenues than they now do and some should contribute less.

TIME IS UP

If that State Highway Engineer and the members of the State Highway Commission would come down here to St. Helens, get into an automobile and start out for a drive from here to Pittsburg on the Nehalem, they would go back home and forward by next mail the surveys, plats, profiles and all other necessities to the County Court so that work could be done on the road which is a necessity for the people of Columbia County. A trip over that road into the beautiful and fertile Nehalem Valley would convince any reasonable man who had any interest in the upbuilding of the county and the convenience of the tax payers, that the Pittsburg road should be one of the first roads to be finished. It would provide a way for the people of the Nehalem valley to get out to the river and to the county seat without going 10 miles to get one. That road would be of practical benefit to a large number of Columbia County citizens who help pay taxes to build roads.

Any person with any respect for the word could not call it a road as it is today. And yet there was \$25,000 voted by the people of the county to be put on that road. This sum with a fair proportion of the tax money raised by the property in the district through which this road passes, would make a passable road for the inhabitants of the county to use. It would not make a first class road, but it would clear the logs and stumps and do considerable of the grading so that teams and vehicles could at least get over it. The bonds for this road were voted in February. The money was obtained several months ago. The State Highway Engineer surveyed the road and the survey is finished. Yet the County Court has not received from the State Engineer the plats, plans, surveys etc., of the road. The time for working the roads this year is fast passing by and unless some of the work is begun shortly there will be nothing of any consequence done until next year. Somebody should get a long

prod and wake up the State Highway Engineer's office so that work could be started on one of the important, to this county, roads.

A MISTAKE

There is a nature man in Oregon who is attempting to demonstrate something about man being able in this day and age to exist and accomplish something in the wilds of an Oregon forest with nothing to start on. He is trying to show to the world that nothing can produce something. His stories and the stories of the eminent men watching him are very interesting to a great majority of the people. His stories of how he stabs his fires without matches, how he catches fish with his hands, secures food without arms or ammunition and provides himself clothing without any other means of getting it than by his hands in combat with wild animals. His writing on pieces of bark describing the country all furnish interesting reading for the public. Of such importance are his stories and write-ups that several of the large daily papers of the country are paying large sums of money to the nature man for his work. And this is another of the features of the undertaking of Knowles. He has contracted with only one paper in a city for his dope and in Portland the Oregonian was the paper securing it.

Now one of the other papers is displaying a jealous spirit which is doing that particular paper more harm and costing it more of its prestige as a fair and impartial journal of the people than anything it has done for some time. This particular paper is doing all it can to discredit the stories of the nature man. It is making it to appear that the man is a fakir and the several large papers who are paying the money for the articles and the public generally are being buncoed. Such a procedure by one of the leading papers of the state was not looked for. It was a surprise to a large number of admirers. It is not doing the Journal any good and it is not hurting the Oregonian any.

BE CAREFUL

Residents of this city above the hill report that some days there is a shortage of water in that neighborhood. The water superintendent made a visit to the head of the water system a short time ago and found that the water was lower in the reservoir than it had ever been before. A trip around the city most any time of the day or night will disclose the fact that people are using water for all kinds of purposes when it is not permissible to do so. A water shortage at this particular time would be a calamity. Fires are raging all around us. Old dead grass and underbrush are blazing in close proximity to residences and other buildings. The weather is peculiarly hot for this country and weather prophets tell us that there is no immediate prospect for rain.

The Water Commissioners should see that all rules in regard to the use of water are strictly enforced. The people of the city who are using water out of hours should be patriotic enough to discontinue such practices and the executive officers of the city should take a firm stand and prosecute any persons who wilfully violate the rules. It is a serious matter and should be taken seriously by every resident of the city.

There are two men in St. Helens who imagine they can make it rain. A. J. Deming and E. E. Quick claim that when they start on a camping trip it will rain without fail. It is up to them to start right away if they would be public benefactors.

Columbia County is contributing its full share towards financing the European wars. Austrians, Servians and others are sending most of the wage money earned on the Columbia Highway to their native lands.

Fire Chief Allen of the St Helens Fire Department and his company of fire fighters have demonstrated that they are as capable of handling of forest fires as with any other fires. The thanks of the entire community, farmers, timber owners and property owners, are due to this bunch of fire fighters.

The federal grand jury in Seattle has voted an indictment against the fisheries trust. Let us hope this is not another fish story.

"Watchful waiting" may now safely take a ten minute snooze.

Exit Huerta.
Enter the Wilson smile.

London sufs have horsewhipped another public official, and the whip will be saved as a souvenir.

When Huerta decamped he took \$6,000,000 with him. The city itself was too heavy to carry.

SCAPPOOSE

Mrs. Adams has returned from the Sheppard Springs much improved in health.

Mrs. Washburn's sister from the East is visiting her this week.

Mrs. Stanton's daughter Amy is visiting her this week.

Mrs. Lenord visited at Houlton Wednesday with her daughter Mrs. Devens.

Mrs. Van Cleve made a business trip to Portland Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Morrey of Multnomah Sundayed at the Van Cleve farm and think Mrs. Van' Cleve can fry chicken to perfection.

Bob Hobert and Rhea Butler Sundayed at Portland.

Wm. Percy visited over Sunday at the restaurant.

Ray Gattens made a flying trip here Sunday coming on one train and leaving on the next one.

Mrs. Holland, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Joyce were Portland visitors Saturday.

Mr. Dugan informs us 3 of his little girls, Hazel, Sarah and Helen are very low with diptheria at the home at Oswego.

Mrs. Getchell has friends from California visiting her this week.

Mrs. Copeland visited at the Rose City, Tuesday.

Newell Ward motored through our town Sunday.

Mrs. Tom Cloninger and son Harry is visiting at Portland this week.

Mrs. Malloy returned home this week from Albany where she has been visiting her parents.

Mr. Wm. Sholtz is thrashing this week.

No one wants to miss Miss Hazel Watts' play on Friday night. Home talent.

Mr. Kyser is still very low.

We are sorry to lose Mr. and Mrs. Irons. They will leave here next week for Idaho.

Old man Brill should be looked after. A fire burned his house, barn and everything he had, he sleeps under some trees, and walks to town about 6 miles and asks for things to eat. He is old and can hardly walk. He needs help.

Mr. Howell and family has moved back to Chapman's camp.

Mrs. Roads' father, Mr. Merrill the owner of Merrill's boat house at Portland died last week.

Mr. Stanton expects to move to Astoria soon.

Everybody is saving up all the old tin pans, as wedding bells will soon be ringing.

Miss Libby Fowler returned home after a two week vacation.

Tom Cloninger is having his dwelling house raised and cement piers put under also a cement sidewalk.

D. Price and family has returned from Newport where they have been for a couple of weeks on a vacation.

Albert Leonard and wife visited with his parents Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard.

Miss Eva Garrison Sundayed with Miss Anderson at Portland.

TRENHOLM NEWS

P. E. Brockway made a trip to the County Seat Tuesday.

J. Christensen and family visited Trenholm Tuesday.

Mrs. Geo. Wilson and Mrs. Nina McIntire made a trip to Portland on Tuesday, returning Wednesday.

Mrs. Smith and children of Portland are here for an extended visit with her daughter, Mrs. Wittnebel.

Mr. and Mrs. Steersera and children recently from Wisconsin are visiting at the home of her cousins Mr. and Mrs. M. Griffith.

Miss Effie Eversaul is working for Mrs. Sherm Saxton at Houlton while Mrs. Saxton's little son is ill with scarlet fever.

Mrs. Latin, who has been visiting at the Fowler home returned to California last week.

Ed Stanwood of St. Helens was seen on our streets Sunday.

METHODIST NOTES

Sunday School at 10 a. m.

Preaching service at 11 a. m.

The evening service will be in charge of the Epworth League and will be held at 8 o'clock.

Prayer meeting Thursday evening
EDWARD T. LUTHER,
Pastor

CENTRAL MARKET

Our trade is increasing every day, therefore have had to add some more to our force to serve our many patrons, which we are bound give the best of attention both in the market and on our delivery.

eYars of experience has taught us that the best of everything is the most profitable, therefore, we have employed experienced help and handle only the best of meats and the greatest variety.

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